

White working hard to fulfill leadership role

Meredith White moves in opposite Kathy Crawford as the starting forwards on Carolina's women's basketball team and the junior looks to lead the Tar Heels in many aspects of the game.

By NORMAN CANNADA

YOU probably won't find Meredith White leading the nation in scoring anytime in the near future, but the 5-10 junior forward for the UNC women's basketball team has an important role on the team all the same.

"I try to provide leadership and help out verbally on the court," White said. "I've also started to emphasize rebounding more than I have in the past. We don't have a very tall team, and we need at least three going for the boards."

White spent most of the 1979-80 season as a backup to Kathy

Crawford, an All-Tournament selection in last year's National Women's Invitational Tournament. This year, however, White and Crawford have both taken starting positions at the forwards.

"I started some last year, but mostly I played behind Kathy," she said. "But, this year we've been playing a lot together. I think we both complement each other real well."

Although the two forwards do play well with each other, there are some very obvious differences in their style of play.

"Kathy is more of an inside power

player than me and she has a great potential to score. I like playing on the outside more and taking shots from the corner."

Former UNC star Bernie McGlade joined the Lady Tar Heels as an assistant coach this year after finishing a successful four-year career at Carolina last season. White said she likes the idea of playing under a former teammate.

"She knows an awful lot about the game and she fits in real well. A lot of us who played with her respect and look up to her and the freshmen that didn't play her respect her knowledge of the game."

In the first three games of the 1980-81 season, the Lady Tar Heels defeated both James Madison and Florida before losing to defending national champion, Old Dominion.

"I think we showed the potential that we have in the first two games," White said. "But, there are still a lot of things that we need to work on."

WHITE saw the loss to Old Dominion as particularly disappointing early in the season.

"I really thought we had a chance to beat them. They are not the awesome team that they used to be, and we helped to beat ourselves."

Individually, White is working to overcome her weaknesses.

"I've been working pretty hard on my quickness all summer and think it has helped me. I'm still not the speediest player in the world, but I am quicker."

White's height, 5-10, has also

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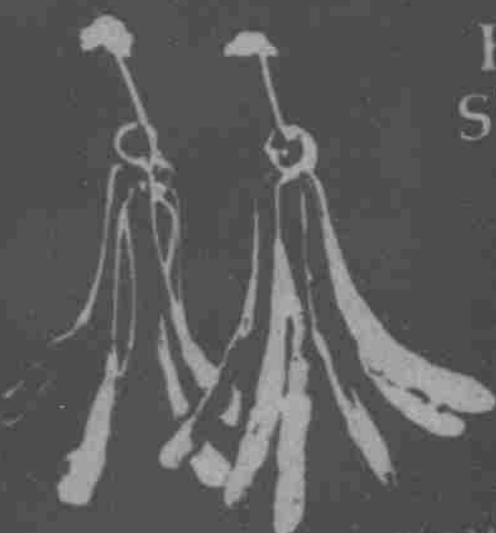
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